

Revival of closed sugar mills in Vidarbha

†1844. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 14 out of 16 sugar mills in Vidarbha region in Maharashtra are closed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by Government to restart these closed sugar mills;

(d) whether it is a fact that these sugar mills are closed due to less production of sugarcane in the Vidharbha region; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government to increase sugarcane production in this region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (c) As per the information received from the Cane Commissioner, Government of Maharashtra, there are 20 sugar mills in the Vidarbha region, out of which 16 are cooperative and 4 are private. As on 30.11.2006, seven (three cooperative and four private) sugar mills have started crushing. Remaining 13 sugar mills are presently closed, due to less availability of sugarcane; less sugar recovery; financial sickness and paucity of funds; and lack of planning of sugarcane development in the region. In respect of the cooperative sugar mills following steps have been taken to restart these mills:-

1. State Government has given guarantee for pre-seasonal loans;
2. Medium term loans to liquidate cane arrears for season 2002-03;
3. Road grants for infrastructural development;
4. National Bank of Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD) package for re-scheduling term loans for 3 sugar mills;
5. Conversion of short margin to pledge in medium term loan;
6. Sugarcane Development Fund loans against Government guarantee; and
7. Soft loan by State Government.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) and (e) Less production of sugarcane is one of the reasons due to which these sugar mills remained closed. The State Government had appointed a Committee under the chairmanship of Commissioner of Sugar for planning to increase sugarcane area in Vidarbha region. The Committee has since submitted its report to the Government.

Revival of Super Bazar

1845. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the fate of Super Bazar, Connaught Circus, New Delhi;

(b) the fate of money put in by investors in the shares of Super Bazar; and

(c) whether there is any plan to revive it and if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (c) The Super Bazar Dalit Karamchari Sangh has filed Special Leave Petition No. 8398/2005 in the Supreme Court challenging the order of winding up of Super Bazar. The Supreme Court in its Order dated 28.02.2006, *inter alia*, observed that professional management of the Super Bazar is absolutely essential. With a view to explore the possibility of having an arrangement under which the management of the Super Bazar may be entrusted to a body of professionals, the Supreme Court constituted a Committee of Officials to consider all aspects of the matter. The Committee submitted its report on 29.3.2006 in the Supreme Court of India. On 5.5.2006, the Supreme Court directed the Committee to issue an advertisement in two National dailies for inviting bids to start Super Bazar afresh. In compliance of this Order, a notice was published on 19.05.2006 in two National daily newspapers. M/s Reliance Industries Ltd. and Indian Labour Cooperative Society along with Indian Potash Ltd. had submitted their bids. These bids were opened by the Committee on 8.6.2006. The bids were evaluated by the Committee and a Report was submitted in the Supreme Court on 4.7.2006. The next date of hearing of the case fixed by the Supreme Court is 12.12.2006. Therefore, the matter is *sub-judice*.